

3/29/19

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Chapter No. 434
19/SS02/R796SG
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SENATE BILL NO. 2447

Originated in Senate

Lizukich

Secretary

SENATE BILL NO. 2447

AN ACT TO CODIFY SECTION 37-153-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION GRANTS THROUGH THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD (SWIB) TO SCHOOLS FOR EACH STUDENT WHO EARNS A QUALIFYING INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. The following shall be codified as Section 37-153-15, Mississippi Code of 1972:

37-153-15. (1) As used in this chapter:

(a) The words "industry certification" mean a voluntary process through which students are assessed by an independent, third-party certifying entity using predetermined standards for knowledge, skills and competencies, resulting in the award of a credential that is nationally recognized and must be at least one (1) of the following:

(i) Within an industry that addresses a critical local, regional or statewide economic need;

(ii) Linked to an occupation that is included in the State Department of Employment Security's occupations in high-demand list; or

(iii) Linked to an occupation that is identified as emerging.

(b) The words "qualifying industry certification" mean an industry certification that is linked to an occupation with wages of at least seventy percent (70%) of the average annual wage in this state unless the industry certification is stackable to another postsecondary or professional credential which is linked to an occupation which meets the wage criterion.

(2) The State Workforce Investment Board shall provide the State Board of Education annually with a list of qualifying industry certifications. If the occupations identified in the list are not substantially the same as those occupations identified in the prior year, the State Board of Education shall provide reasonable notice of the changes to school districts.

(3) Beginning in fiscal year 2019-2020 and subject to available funding, the Department of Education shall pay a career and technical education incentive grant to the public school for each student enrolled in the public school who earns a qualifying industry certification. The amount per student for the career and technical education incentive grant shall be Six Hundred Dollars (\$600.00). If the statewide sum of the career and technical education incentive grants awarded pursuant to this section

exceeds the amount of available funds appropriated for the grants, the grants per student shall be reduced proportionately to cover all eligible grants under this section.

(4) The grants may be used for qualifying industry certification examination fees, professional development for teachers in career and technical education programs under this section, student instructional support for programs that lead to qualifying industry certifications, or to increase access to qualifying industry certifications. Any grants awarded under this section may not be used to supplant funds provided for the basic operation of the career and technical education programs.

(5) On or before July 1 of each year, the Department of Education shall submit a report to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chairmen of the House and Senate Education Committees, the Chairman of the House Workforce Development Committee and the Chairman of the Senate Labor Committee on the following:

(a) The number of students who enrolled in a career and technical education course or program that leads to a qualifying industry certification.

(b) The number of students who earned a qualifying industry certification by certification.

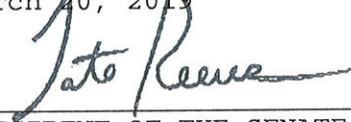
(c) The amount of career and technical education incentive grants awarded by the school.

(d) The amount of career and technical education incentive grants awarded per student.

(e) Aggregated demographic data on the students who earned a qualifying industry certification, including the qualifying industry certifications earned by rural and urban students.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2019.

PASSED BY THE SENATE
March 10, 2019



PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
March 12, 2019



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR



GOVERNOR

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